

## REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims to clarify the invention. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are amended herein to recite a communication link comprising a length, an end, a connector disposed on the end, and a passive transponder disposed on the connector, wherein said passive transponder includes a memory comprising information including the length. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 5 at Lines 11-14, on Page 6 at Lines 17-19, on Page 7 at Lines 4-6, and in FIG. 3 at elements 280 (communication link), 330 (connector), and 340 (passive transponder).

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, are further amended to recite wirelessly reading the information from the memory by either the first communication link control card or by the second communication link control card. Support can be found in the Specification on Page 6 at Lines 7-16.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-18, and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeRolf et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0104039) in view of P.B. Gilliland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,554,492), and further in view of Phillips hitag1 stick transponder ("hitag").

Claims 3, 11, and 19, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeRolf et al., in view of Gilliland et al., and in further view of Phillips hitag1 and Cecchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,626).

DeRolf teaches use of communication links 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e, and 12f. In FIG. 1 DeRolf et al. show each communication link as comprising two physical structures each

communicating information unidirectionally. This graphical depiction comports with the express teachings of DeRolf et al., namely that “links 12a, b, c, d, e, f connect the devices comprise Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loops or fiber wires.” Paragraph [0015]. DeRolf et al. nowhere teaches a communication link comprising a length, an end, a connector disposed on said end, and a passive transponder disposed on said connector, wherein the passive transponder includes a memory comprising information including the length, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Neither Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., cure the deficiencies of DeRolf et al. Neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach a communication link comprising a length, an end, a connector disposed on said end, and a passive transponder disposed on said connector, wherein the passive transponder includes a memory comprising information including the length, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Moreover, neither DeRolf et al., nor Gilliland, nor hitag, nor Cecchi et al., singly or in combination, teach wirelessly reading the information from the memory by either the first communication link control card or by the second communication link control card, as recited by claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as amended herein.

Claims 2-7, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 10-16, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 18-24, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 17, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-24, as amended herein, are patentable over DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Claims 26-30, as amended herein, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 25, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-30, as amended herein, are patentable over

DeRolf et al., Gilliland, hitag, and/or Cecchi et al.

Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 170055.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dale F. Regelman/

Dale F. Regelman, Ph.D.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 45,625

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/Reena Mendez/

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QUARLES & BRADY LLP  
One South Church Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

TEL 520-770-8703  
FAX 520-770-2233